

Department of Economic and
Community Development



Connecticut Business, Economic Officials Leading Trade Mission to Israel

Building Global Partnerships is Key to State's Economic Growth

(Hartford, CT)- Catherine Smith, commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), will lead a group of businesses and area economic development officials to Israel to promote Connecticut companies, the state's many business advantages, and strengthen Connecticut-Israeli business collaborations.

"This is an important business mission that will make a strong case for Israeli companies to bring their business here and will assist some of the state's top companies that are interested in exporting their products, goods and services to Israel," said Smith. "The trip aligns with Governor Malloy's overall economic policies and efforts to grow existing companies, attract new ones, and bring capital investment to Connecticut. It is part of our broader overall economic development strategy that has in part helped create the best two-year record of private sector job creation since the late 1990s."

The five-day trip, December 6-11, is being organized by DECD in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, MetroHartford Alliance, and U.S. Department of Commerce, and in collaboration with the Israel Economic Mission to North America. The purpose is to facilitate business matchmaking and networking opportunities.

Strategic meetings with business and industry leaders, key government officials, and top educational institutions are planned. Particular focus will be given to top sectors for innovation and growth, such as aerospace, clean energies, biotechnology, finance, insurance and precision manufacturing.

In addition to building relationships and exchanging ideas, the event will give economic development leaders a chance to promote the advantages of doing business in Connecticut. Commissioner Smith will host Connecticut Day in Israel, a

half-day event designed to highlight Connecticut's business environment, economic programs and talent.

For companies interested in joining the mission, DECD will hold an informational session at the Hartford law offices of Pullman & Comley, 90 State House Square on September 10 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. For more information contact DECD's Beatriz Gutierrez at (860) 270-8013 or Beatriz.Gutierrez@ct.gov.

###

Contacts:

Department of Economic and Community Development (www.decd.org)

James Watson

Phone: (860) 270-8182

Email: jim.Watson@ct.gov

Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford (www.jewishhartford.org)

Laura Zimmerman, AVP

Jewish Public Affairs

lzimmerman@jewishhartford.org or call 860-727-6167

MetroHartford Alliance (www.MetroHartford.com)

Sandra Johnson, EDP

Vice President and Director of Business Development,

Domestic and International Business

Email: sjohnson@metrohartford.com

Phone: 860-525-4451 ext. 281

U.S. Department of Commerce

Anne S Evans - District Director

International Trade Administration

Phone: (860) 638-6953

Email: Anne.Evans@trade.gov